

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19-77

RE: C.R. NO. 19-77/H&SA

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GRANT ASSISTANCE  
FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF  
\$395,980 FOR ORAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Nineteenth Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Third Special Session, 2015

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs to which was  
referred C.R. No. 19-77, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE  
AMOUNT OF \$395,980 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, HEALTH RESOURCES AND  
SERVICES ADMINISTRATION TO FUND THE ORAL HEALTH  
WORKFORCE ACTIVITIES IN THE FSM, FOR THE PROJECT  
PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2014 TO AUGUST 31, 2017,  
INCLUDING ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE  
ASSISTANCE.",

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this resolution are expressed in  
its title.

Your Committee held a hearing on November 17, 2015 the  
witnesses present included the Department of Health and  
Social Affairs, including the Acting Secretary and his key

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staff, and the Department of Justice. Your Committee was also very fortunate to have present the Directors of the State Departments of Health.

The Committee was advised that this is Year Two of the grant cycle for this particular program, and were reminded that in Year One extensive training had been proposed for oral health professionals. Your Committee was advised that training did go forward and 15 individuals received a three month long intensive training. The Department pointed out that this was very important as currently there are no students studying dentistry to become a dental assistant. During the first year of the grant the training and supplies were purchased to begin the preventative health activities.

Year two was the grant period under discussion during the hearing. The Departments of Health and Social Affairs, and Justice confirmed that this award of \$395,980 was for only the year period September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016. This period is correctly referenced in the grant award; however, the dates need to be revised in the resolution as transmitted by the President.

In Year two the activities under this grant will be preventative dental health outreach for children preschool to grade 3. A very detailed budget for activities and supplies is attached with this report. The Department confirmed that the activities would attempt to reach all the children in our Nation in the relevant age groups. The State Directors of Health also advised the Committee that already there were positive outcomes in their communities from this program.

When the State Directors of Health were asked if more of the budget for this program, and others, should rest at the State level most spoke positively of the leverage that the

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National Department of Health and Social Affairs could get in procurement of supplies and other resources. Although the State Directors remained positive about the current coordination they did state that many of these matters were being discussed at meetings this week.

As with other grants, the Health Departments for both the State and National note that administration and approval for the grant often times delays the implementation of the programs. The Committee took note of this ongoing issue and advised it would continue to investigate how to maintain oversight while making the process more efficient.

Finally, the Committee again requests that progress reports and detailed budgets be submitted for the grants with the proposed resolution and grant award so the Committee may have the opportunity to make a preliminary review before its hearings.

The Committee would like to offer the following amendments be made to C.R. No. 19-77 to read as follows:

1. In the title line 5 delete "2014" and insert "2015" in lieu thereof.
2. In the title line 5 delete "2017" and insert "2016" in lieu thereof.
3. Page 2, line 2, delete "Second" and insert "Third", in lieu thereof.

Your Committee on Health and Social Affairs is in accord with the intent and recommends its adoption, in the form attached hereto as C.R. No. 19-77, C.D.1.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Bonsiano F. Nethon  
Bonsiano F. Nethon, chairman

/s/ Ferny S. Perman  
Ferny S. Perman, vice chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Aritos, member

/s/ Florencio S. Harper  
Florencio S. Harper, member

/s/ David W. Panuelo  
David W. Panuelo, member

/s/ Joseph J. Urusemal  
Joseph J. Urusemal, member

/s/ Alik L. Alik  
Alik L. Alik, member